

# TNSrecords FREEfanzine

Supporting underground punk and ska since 2003

## ISSUE11

STRUMMERCAMP2011special



Manchester Rugby Club  
27/28/29 May 2011

## Welcome to issue 11 of TNSrecords fanzine.

We are delighted to confirm that we'll be hosting the second stage at Strummercamp 2011 for the second year. It takes place on May 27, 28 and 29 and you can get much more info and tickets at [www.strummercamp.co.uk](http://www.strummercamp.co.uk). The festival is completely non-profit and run by volunteers and we feel it's something that TNS really wanted to be involved with as it has such a similar ethos. It pays homage to the influence of the late Joe Strummer and of The Clash by bringing lots of diverse and exciting music together in a big field, with an amazing atmosphere and cheap booze. It can't fail to be brilliant really can it? To help build up the excitement we have made this issue of TNS a Strummercamp special so there are previews, interviews with some of the bands and more info about what could surely be the best weekend of the year. We hope to see you there!

We've had three TNS releases this year so far. The Beat the Red Light and Stand Out Riot albums came out earlier in the year and we should be getting our International Split EP any day now. Check out details of all those releases on the next page. Next up will be an album for Rising Strike, who are awesome and who will also be making their old EP available for free download at [www.tnsrecords.co.uk](http://www.tnsrecords.co.uk) very soon, to get you all in the mood for the new CD.

**TNSrecords** is a Manchester based independent record label. TNS (That's Not Skanking) was founded in 2003 as a fanzine and to put on local gigs. In 2008 TNS evolved to include a record label with the aim of supporting great underground Punk & Ska. TNS is run based on the following core principles:

- TNS are dedicated to supporting exciting music at grass roots level.
- We believe in the music 'scene' working together as a community making every aspect better for all, discriminating against none.
- TNS is run on a not-for-profit basis. We generally just about cover costs, anything else funds future releases.
- 'TNS' bands should be actively involved in supporting other bands and helping them to play in their towns, working as hard as possible to get underground music out to genuine fans.
- TNS oppose pay-to-play gigs, music competitions and money grabbing promoters. Music should never be about competing.
- We believe that music can be a positive force politically, socially and morally, but also that everyone involved should have lots of fun!

### KEEP IN TOUCH WITH TNS:

If you'd like this fanzine delivered to your door every issue, as well as exclusive offers please email/post the following info to us:

**Name:** **Postal address:** **Tel. no:** **Email address:**

**Where did you pick up this fanzine:**

Email your answers to: [andy@tnsrecords.co.uk](mailto:andy@tnsrecords.co.uk)

Post them to: 17 Heywood Road, Prestwich, Manchester M25 1FB

I say this every single issue, but every single sale is so appreciated and helps us continue what we are doing. If you pick up our stuff it also means there are less boxes of CDs in my house which is also a bonus.

In this issue there are also details of other upcoming TNS events, band news, lots of ranting and even some stuff which is not TNS or Strummercamp related.  
And it's all still FREE!

Hope you enjoy it.

**Andy**

This issue was put together by Samantha Cryer, Jim Sorrow, Andy Davies, Lee Morrissey, Ed Hall, Leo Harvey, Tim Loud and Phil Fitzpatrick.

Get in touch if you want to get involved!

Thanks to everyone who advertised and sent us stuff.  
It's much appreciated.

[www.tnsrecords.co.uk](http://www.tnsrecords.co.uk)  
[www.strummercamp.co.uk](http://www.strummercamp.co.uk)

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# ISSUE 11

# New for 2011 on TNSrecords

## **TNS014: Beat the Red Light - Salt the Lands**

A genre destroying debut album from High Wycombe's finest. Imagine Slayer playing ska really, really well. For fans of Slayer, Voodoo Glow Skulls and The Slackers.

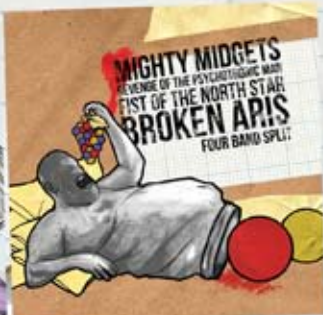
## **TNS015: Stand Out Riot - The Gentleman Bandits**

The highly anticipated second album from Manchester punk/ska/gypsy/noise pioneers. For fans of Gogol Bordello, Capdown and Streetlight Manifesto.

## **TNS016: 4 Way Split: Mighty Midgets (Denmark), Revenge of the Psychotronic Man (UK), Fist of the North Star (USA), Broken Aris (Sweden)**

21 tracks of very fast paced punk rock and 4 different takes on the genre. If you like fast music do not miss this. For fans of Zeke, Kid Dynamite, Strike Anywhere, The Dwarves, The Steal, NoFX

Co-released with 5FeetUnder Records (Denmark) and Stikman Records (USA)



**These and much, much more are available from [www.tnsrecords.co.uk](http://www.tnsrecords.co.uk)**



## THAT'S NOT SONGWRITING MAINSTREAM MUSIC ISN'T JUST SHIT, it's also obscene and dangerous.

Music has always been political: how could something so powerful not be? Music plucks at the strings of our feelings, our unarticulated emotions, in a more direct way than words and images could ever do. Music can cheer you up or bring you to tears; music can calm you down or get you going; in some cases, different musical associations can make the same image either unsettling or pleasant. Melodies creep their way into the subconscious and become attached to memories – to the point that hearing a song from an earlier time in your life can fill you with the same feelings, completely abstracted from their cause, that you felt then. And you have little or no power over which songs worm their way in (I once spent a year with Yazz's 'The Only Way is Up' stuck in my head, and I hate that song).

The evocative power of music has made it ever-present in the creation and reinforcement of collective identity, from the national anthem to the football chant. Inescapably, the power of music has become a fundamental part of the awful glue that holds us all together: no advert, no sitcom, no consumer product of any kind, can be without it. Music, far more than sex, sells. Whether it is the advertising jingle that you cannot stop yourself repeating in everyday conversation, or the

use of much-beloved songs to glamorise yet another car, TV, holiday or perfume that you simply cannot do without, music participates in our perpetual enthrallment to the world of commodities. Music's commercialisation entails something alien to the inherent subjectivity of appreciating music; how personal it is. Unable to predict what people will like, and thus know which artists to invest in, the music industry has asserted control over its commodity by enforcing conformity on the market: there is a formula for a successful pop song, and what the Simon Cowells of this world do is sell the formula, through its perpetual repetition in countless, interchangeable singles released by a series of countless, interchangeable 'artists' who are often absent from any composition, and increasingly (thanks to auto-tune) from performance itself. Through this mechanism, the consumer is told what to like, and taste and preference become less and less factors in determining success: as Adorno said, "The familiarity of the piece is a surrogate for the quality ascribed to it. To like it is almost the same thing as to recognize it".

At the core of mainstream music, then, is conformity – conformity of the music, of the musician, and of the audience – and it is this which makes it obscene. It is not conformity that is enforced, by whips or threats, and nor is it conformity required and engineered by some hidden agenda. The

agenda is out in the open: it is the demand to make a profit no matter what. Nevertheless, conformity is always violent. It involves the exclusion and suspicion of what is different, of what doesn't fit into the formula. Conformity resonates strongly with obedience and the withering away of criticism, of dissent: it is affirmation, agreement, consent.

The conformity that reanimates the corpse of mainstream music is paradoxical: it is not a type of conformity that silences self-expression, individuality and diversity, but rather one that celebrates them. This is the genius of the formula: all popular music – each different genre, each different style and mood – carries the same message, fits the same structure, while appearing different. Almost any subculture, any scene, any personal preference can be catered for by this homogenous culture dressed up as its opposite, as heterogeneity. The truth of this homogeneity can be seen in the striking similarity in how the different musical subcultures are organised: each has its own radio station, its own TV channel, its own festival, its own club night. In the same movement, the music industry caters for diverse musical identities whilst making them all identical and interchangeable. The conflation of familiarity and preference is only deepened, through having things to choose between: 'I liked them, they sounded like...' is reinforced by 'they were

awful, too much like...'

This fusion in music of conformity and self-assertion is what makes mainstream music dangerous. It makes conformity invisible, and in doing so, makes something fundamentally regressive out of all of us. We are compelled by its logic to celebrate and value only the existent and familiar, to constantly rehearse what we've heard and seen and done before. Through conforming to ready-made types, which we mistake for a 'rich tapestry', we become complicit in a world in which we are repressed, duped and enslaved. So what are the alternatives? The production of music through independent, not-for-profit, and self-organised activity is a start. It removes much of the motivation for making music something that is simultaneously self-assertive and conformist. But the conformism that has infected music runs deep: even the most self-consciously 'alternative' scenes can fall prey to the temptation of liking things only because they've been heard before, and hating anything that does not fit nicely into the model, that does not adhere to the conventions, that does not dress the right way. To break out of this cage, we must do more than just assert our alterity. We must seek an awareness of our own formulas, and strive to become less dependent on them; we must train ourselves to appreciate and encourage the unfamiliar; we must find new ways to express ourselves – and, most importantly,

enjoy ourselves – through a music that does not seek shortcuts to its audience, such as being familiar or formulaic, but rather that asks to be heard, felt and understood on its own terms. In this way, we might replace our experience as consumers – identical, but separate and isolated – with an experience of music that brings us together in a far deeper way. It is this depth of being together which music inherently promises, and which mainstream music destroys.

**Tom Houseman**

## **TUC MARCH (In March)**

In March I travelled down to London to join the TUC March For The Alternative.

Despite the necessity for such a march to take place being the bleak social conditions we are experiencing and despite having my alarm go off at 5 in the fucking morning on a Saturday, it ended up being an incredibly positive experience.

I work in education and my union organised our train down and although it was great to see that our train was easily filled I was still a little disheartened by how few colleagues actually went from the North-West area. There really is no reason why we couldn't have filled six, seven or even more trains. The cuts are affecting education in a huge way. On a selfish level teachers pay and

pensions are needlessly being hammered into the ground. But for me that's not really the reason I went. I earn enough to get by and it's a while before I'll be claiming any pension. That's not to say I'm justifying those particular cuts in any way – it's bullshit. It's just that imminently I'm more concerned with the impact that cuts to school and college budgets have on students' educational experience, how cuts to EMA will stop young people from attending colleges and how young people who have been told that if they work hard they can go on to university have had that snatched away from them, with no alternative option made available, by quite frankly ridiculous tuition fees. These cuts will fundamentally affect our whole society in so many ways for many years to come and I also consider these education cuts to be a poorly disguised attempt to privatise education in the long term, thus making it elitist. This is something I strongly oppose.

I had hoped more people from my profession would be as concerned as I am. I'm aware some people have other commitments and would have liked to have been there, but as always, there is a large degree of apathy which is what allows the government to take things away from 'ordinary' people so easily.

I also work in the arts, which is another area being hugely affected by the cuts so here lay another motive for my

attendance. However, for me it's not just about the cuts that specifically affect me. It's about all areas of society which are being affected. This was a chance for everyone affected (and even those not affected who just realise how unjust it all is) to come together and make a statement. It was a statement which admittedly may not change anything at this stage, but a statement of our collective discontent.

That is what made it such a positive experience. I have been on some smaller protests, which have had poor turnouts and left me feeling further disheartened by our chances of making a change, but here (depending on which newspaper you believe) there were over half a million people making a statement of intent to this awful government. A statement which said we will not accept what is happening. It evoked an enormous sense of solidarity and for a few days I suddenly felt less helpless. There were possibly even more people there than reports suggest. It took over 5 hours for the whole march to pass through the starting point. But as we know the right-wing biased media like to play these things down.

Despite this being an impressive turnout, in my opinion there should have been many, many more people than that. It's time for everyone to make their opinions known. Mass protest really makes a statement to the powers that be.

Another thing the media like to make a meal of is the trouble that took place.

I don't wish to get into the reasons behind this now. That's for another writer with a better understanding of it all, but I can certainly understand the frustration people feel about tax avoidance and bankers' bonuses (you can read more about tax avoidance at [www.ukuncut.org.uk](http://www.ukuncut.org.uk)). However, as soon as there is a bit of trouble the media leap on it. The march was so good-natured and almost carnival-like despite its serious intentions, but I'm sure everyone who attended received texts during the day asking if they were caught up in 'all the trouble'.

It was portrayed in such an unrealistic way by selective TV footage and the media urge to play down the huge numbers of protesters and instead concentrate on the minority of people who were more physical in their actions. I couldn't actually believe how badly it was reported. The number of arrests reported was also swelled dramatically by the majority of the arrests being people who staged a peaceful sit-in at upmarket food retailer, Fortnum and Mason. The Guardian has reported (with video evidence) how these protesters were led to believe they would be free to leave without arrest (after being kept inside the store for their 'safety') only to subsequently be arrested. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

uk/video/2011/mar/28/fortnum-mason-protesters-uk-uncut-video.

Whilst I appreciate the frustrations of the people who took their protesting that step further, I also think people need to be aware that in many ways it is playing into the hands of the media and the government. It is easy for the press to write off the actions of many by selective reporting of the actions of a few. Whilst the governments foreign policy does a very good job of portraying the message that aggression is the way to get things done, they are very quick to condemn such actions over here and to make an example of those who choose that route.

One of the major difficulties in opposing the current government is the fact that the opposition will never all agree on what the best course of action is. There were many people handing out leaflets suggesting that just marching is not enough and that the TUCs proposals do not go far enough, or that marching on a Saturday didn't get the point across and a general strike should be called. Historically getting the left to agree has always been hard, but I guess that's the nature of the left isn't it?

For me, this was the start and it was great that this event happened and great that there was so much literature available so that people can gain a better understanding of what is happening as it is overwhelming

to understand at times. It was an inspiration to see so many people from all walks of life finally starting to make themselves heard. This has to build momentum now if we are to make a difference and people have to stand and work together.

March 26th was an inspiring day, despite the negative publicity some have thrown at it and hopefully it has inspired many more who are being affected by these unreasonable and unnecessary cuts to take notice.

If enough people stand up to what is happening, surely, eventually it has to make some sort of difference.

**Further reading:**  
[www.tuc.org.uk](http://www.tuc.org.uk)

If you'd like a greater understanding of the banking collapse and the financial deficit 'Whoops!: Why everyone owes everyone and no one can pay' by John Lanchester is good at explaining something very complex in a way that I could actually understand.

'Jilted Generation: How Britain Has Bankrupted Its Youth' by Ed Howker and Shiv Malik is an analysis of how our generation has been left in such financially difficult situations by the overspending of others.

'The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists' by Robert Tressell is a fantastic novel, which explains the ideas behind socialism brilliantly. Although it was written at the start

of the 1900s it explains pretty well how working people are always going to face difficult times and some of the ideas are still really relevant today. I feel the apathy to the system that ties people to their lives, displayed by characters in the book is particularly relevant.

**Andy**

## THE OLYMPICS

So the Olympic clock has stopped ticking less than a day into its life. Officials at Swatch are devastated. I think it's hilarious and surely a sign of things to come.

As the mutton dressed as... well, mutton government makes unnecessary cuts and closures all over the country, as the division of wealth widens even further, we are all meant to be feeling tip-top! Because the Olympic games are going to make everything better. An expensive bag of bullshit I'd rather not buy.

I can see why people might think it's a good idea. Culture, heritage, success, tourism - an economical boost? One thing currently standing as a 'pro Olympics' argument is the proposed regeneration of the Olympic Village after the games. Again, I'm not too convinced. Let's look at some other recent 'regenerated' communities in London. The Docklands project didn't do too well. 'Generation' might be the real key term here - generation of yet another waterside

middle class happy living development. Who exactly is this going to benefit? Most likely not the hundreds of thousands of people living in deprivation across London, the South East or the rest of the country.

"We'll turn it into affordable housing," they chant! "It'll be great for those kids who don't have anything!". What those kids need is investment - but of the warm houses, nutritious food and clean clothes variety. My second preferred provision would probably be books and toys, followed swiftly by health care and education not limited by postcode lotteries.

A few thousand waterside apartments, however 'affordable', isn't going to change much.

But wait! It's ok! We're going to make everything better with community sports schemes. Fit children will solve all our problems! Shouldn't these schemes exist anyway? Did we really need a multi billion pound event to make us realise that we don't have enough active souls? I'm pretty sure the NHS have been banging on about exercise for ages. But as always, the poor kids only get prioritised when competition is on the agenda...

The poor people of London, and I mean the deprived, not just generally anyone living there and having to put up with a whiney accent and lack of human

appreciation, I won't benefit from this at all.

Someone will benefit. Unfortunately it is Visa. Every ticket purchased and every drink or programme bought inside the games has to be purchased on a Visa card. So those less well off people who got their tickets cheaper because they were young or from a certain area - yep, they are now slaves to the Visa card. And for the rest of us - you have to bid for tickets and the money comes out of your card before you are told which tickets have been successful! Not sure about you, but most people don't have several hundred quid sat in their debit account - and so Visa credit card applications are up by a ridiculous amount this month.

From a distance the Olympics looks promising. Another beacon of hope. But no matter how many deprived children get to carry the torch in 2012, it's still another flame of opportunity that will eventually be extinguished, leaving a depressing glow of what might have been.

The true winners will no doubt be the money makers. GOLD - Visa, SILVER - Tourism for London and BRONZE - the UK government. And in last place - commiserations to the UK tax payer.

**Samantha Cryer**

**Gimme GRUB!**

It's that time of year again where I try and grow something. Last year I planted my potatoes too late, my radishes too low and I accidentally killed the house plant by forgetting about it. This year, once again, I am determined to grow something useful.

In between the cries of 'Sam, you cannot grow full sized sweetcorn on our balcony,' and 'Sam, you don't put all the seeds in the same hole,' I have managed to somehow produce a batch of healthy seedlings. I will spend an hour every weekend tending to my crops and they will turn out deliciously satisfying...

Unfortunately my dream of being entirely self-sufficient is never going to happen whilst we have a 1x2 m balcony made of concrete. Thankfully I've found a way to eat as much locally sourced and organic veg as possible. Veg boxes! If you live in Manchester you could take advantage too, though I'm sure they have similar projects all around the country. The one I have been using is called GRUB. My box is delivered to my door every Friday in a little cart attached to the back of a bicycle. The box is a fiver and it comes packed full of potatoes, carrots, parsnips, lettuce, cabbage and sometimes onions. The contents vary throughout the season because they only take the most locally sourced, fresh and in-season foods.

Why not give this a try in

your own town? For me it is one more little step towards being a good, green and healthy citizen and it is a great way of making sure you always have healthy veg in the house. It is cheap and convenient too. Suck on that Tesco Metro!

<http://grub.mcc-hub.org/> for details.

**Samantha Cryer**

## KIPPERTRONIX TAKES A BREAK

I was sad last month when I received an email from the organisers of the Kippertronix festival in Wales. It's an absolutely fantastic festival and something well worth supporting. They have cider made nearby and you can sit on a hill whilst hearing the sounds of some of the best UK ska bands and appreciating the stunning Welsh hills which surround the campsite. Unfortunately the organisers have decided to give it a miss this year. It must be such a massive operation to get everything sorted. After all, the whole festival is pretty much held in someone's back yard, although quite a big back yard at that. I've watched Bev and Andy run TNS for quite a while now; putting on gigs, releasing CDs, creating this very fanzine and helping to organise Strummercamp each year. Nothing is ever as easy as it seems and I guess this understanding of how much is involved in running the label leads me to congratulate the Kippertronix crew on how far they have come. I can't wait til the festival is back up and running

and I hope the whole team can have a nice break this summer! As always, keeping these opportunities open for bands and revellers is completely up to the people who support the events - That is you and me. Support your local scene whilst you can...

**Samantha Cryer**

## JAIL GUITAR DOORS

I consider myself, most of the time, to be a person of alternative ethics. I guess what I mean by that is I've taught myself, and I've been lucky enough to be influenced by those around me, to think outside the box politically, ethically and creatively. If you're reading this then you're more than likely one of those people too. I quite like it when something comes along that needs 'consideration'. In fact I like it so much that I find myself seeking out these situations more and more.

In 2009 I went to my first Strummercamp festival and again something popped up out of the blue that I'd never really thought about. The rehabilitation of prisoners. The idea that whatever someone has done, they can be cocooned and transformed back into an accepted citizen once again, with lots of help of course.

Billy Bragg was on stage at Strummercamp and he was talking about his new project. He goes into a prison and helps



inmates learn songs and to play. The charity funds the purchase of guitars and the inmates find it relaxing, a missing creative outlet turned into an opportunity.

And there goes the key word. Opportunity. Something so many of us have, yet so many more have never known. Billy Bragg had gone one step further than just sending a load of instruments to a prison. Not content with merely laying down the capital and solid foundations for the charity, he was continuing his contact with the offenders after their release. He'd brought a few people from the project with him. One that really sticks out in my mind is Leon Walker – a young guy who was just fantastic. It was his first performance to a crowd of that size. You could tell he was nervous, but you could tell he was really trying. His song was so catchy but really deep too. 'My friend Annabella, she got robbed by this fella...'

As an alternative fanzine and as alternative people we do a hell of a lot of ranting. It's time to start making a difference ourselves – and I don't mean succumbing to Cameron's daft Big Society idea. But the truth is there is loads we can do. I don't want to be talked into volunteering at my local prison/primary school/homeless shelter because 'It's the right thing to do,' or because 'Britain needs us.' That isn't what it is about to me. I am so lucky to

be in a position where I can go and help out at a school for a few hours a week. For me it is about giving back to a society which isn't getting help from anywhere else right now. The cuts are wrong - can we change them? Not really. We have tried... and look where that got us. Two hours after the TUC March For The Alternative it was announced that the coalition wouldn't be changing its plans. Quel surprise! It happens again and again.

Volunteering and charity work changes lives. We all have our hobbies and projects. We all have enough time to help. It's not an obligation, but should we all really sit here issue after issue, year after year moaning about social issues without truly trying to make a small change ourselves? I think not.

Leon Walker will be playing again at Strummercamp this year on the acoustic stage. I really can't wait to see him play. I don't know why he was in prison, I don't want to know. I know enough! He is a determined young man. His life is changed for the better.

I'll catch up with him at the festival and interview him for the next fanzine. Mull all this over and I'll be back! If you're lucky enough to have the time and patience for volunteering then I urge you to give it a go. One last thing! The satisfaction of helping out somewhere relevant to you is almost as satisfying as that hour long rant. I promise.

**Samantha Cryer**

## ONE MAN BARMY

So hello peeps, Jim Sorrow here and newish to town so hopefully you will be hearing much from me and my mouth as I talk, talk, talk you to some early grave, here goes.

I come from a hole called Hu(e)ll, a lovely place a bit like Airstrip One province Eric Blair once wrote about.

I often wonder how the 'eck I survived thirty two years around this unforgiving curse, been born upon a town so flat (in land and soul) and with an attitude of a fated, destined similarity and hate to ones neighbours. A total lack of ambition to scale the wall or otherwise is embedded in a gene pool so polluted the shade is much harsher than the muddy Humber itself.

So, the positive- Hull is active with an amazing music scene yet, (wait for it!) there are so many vile practices of indoctrinating all enforced and required standard wrongisms, backwardisms and the general smell of death from within the dark walls many never escape from. Even a positive event can have dark undertones in Hull. It is the way it is. Years of filth, no fresh meat for the population to expand from itself. . . kids born with hull face defects. . .

. . . anyway Hull is the kind of place which enjoys tapping itself on the back with compliment, fucking

itself silly (no kink), and been the centre of all soap dramatics posted live on cool social networking sites ('guess what 'ee did/'ad a fantastical night fighting and fucking the missus silly').

Do visit, and I hope you make it back alive. . .

So- 'the present', here I am in the Manc' area just outside of Stockport in the nice canal town of Marple.

The hills are lovely, not many chavs types to smell my council estate back, good neighbours, then we visited the local pubs.

Oh no, it would seem 'outsiders aint wanted 'ere', even after my first year making the big move. My tattoos upset everyone, (don't us music types get bored of this or do we love it?) and on family walks with the missus and my little girl it would seem from the locals perspective, I do not deserve children looking such the violent short arse type (just don't stare at me boring successful old man! haha).

It is only now when the warm sun comes out I can smile the smiliest smile and realise, life may be far, far, better here than behind the darkened walls of Hu(e)ll, but the average person is still a bastard!

See you at Strummercamp.

**Jim Sorrow X**



# TNSnews

The TNS all-dayer in March was one of the best TNS gigs ever. It was beyond capacity and a big thanks goes out to everyone who came and made it such a crazy and hot gig. **BEAT THE RED LIGHT**, **STAND OUT RIOT**, **REVENGE OF**, **FAINTEST IDEA**, **BOOTSCRAPER**, **THE KIRKZ**, **LEAGUES APART**, **SENSE OF URGENCY** and **EGOS AT THE DOOR** all put in amazing performances and it really couldn't have gone any better. Thanks also go to Natalie and Ciana for the food, Luke and GSS for the sound and everyone at Gullivers.

We have two more TNS gigs booked for the near future at Gullivers, Oldham Street, Manchester. On Sunday 15th we have genre defying hip-hop, rap, ska, punk stars **CHINA SHOP BULL**. Also on the bill are Pumpkin Records political ska band **THE AUTONOMADS**, a new band featuring members of **Harijan**, **The Dead Subverts** and **The Autonomads**, **BLACK STAR DUB COLLECTIVE**, Keighly technical hardcore wizards **SOUNDS OF SWAMI**, fantastic ska/reggae band **THE PHYSICAL JERKS** and Manchester's favourite country punks/drunks **THE MEDICINE BOW**. I'm sure you will agree that is not to be missed.

Then on Sunday 26th June we have Nottingham ska band **THE BREADCHASERS**, gruff ska punk from **THE FRACTIONS**, technically magical melodic hardcore from **FAIR DO'S**, fast punk from **FLAT BACK FOUR** and punk rock from newcomers **THE CROWNING**s, also at Gullivers from 6pm. Both gigs are a fiver in.

The TNS website was designed by Joe from Sounds of Swami at **ONE ROOF MEDIA**. If you are in need of a high quality website get in touch with him: [info@oneroofmedia.co.uk](mailto:info@oneroofmedia.co.uk)

Ska-core heroes **STAND OUT RIOT** have just completed a short UK tour to promote new album, 'The Gentleman Bandits'.

They also aim to hit mainland Europe in the summer.

Leeds agro-folk mob **BOOTSCRAPER** are still working on new material for their album with a proposed release date of November 2011.

They are also booking a tour for 8th-24th July 2011 if anyone would like to book them then email [bootscrapermusic@gmail.com](mailto:bootscrapermusic@gmail.com)

Fast punk band, **REVENGE OF THE PSYCHOTRONIC MAN** have contributed 6 brand new tracks to The International Split EP, which is co-released by TNS (more info in the fanzine). The tracks are perhaps even faster than on the critically acclaimed 'Make Pigs Smoke' album.

They have a few UK gigs, including Strummercamp festival leading up to a summer tour of Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium in July.

All dates are available at [www.revengeofthepsychotronicman.com](http://www.revengeofthepsychotronicman.com)

Writing for a new full length album, which will probably arrive in summer 2012 has begun.

Salford Lawrence Arms-esque melodic punk band **LEAGUES APART** left for their third outing on the mainland of Europe on the 18th April. This time they are hitting up 8 different countries in 18 days. They are also releasing a new 5 track EP called "Buffalo Club" in April. This will be available online.

They've had a bunch of shit luck with their beloved van Whopper recently. Luckily Lincoln's **THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS** have saved the day by letting them use their van for the tour.

Expect some tour stories over the next few months!

Check out [www.leaguesapart.tumblr.com](http://www.leaguesapart.tumblr.com) for up to date news!

**BIG CHEESE MAGAZINE** is lending it's support to the TNS stage at Strummercamp 2011. As part of this there is a competition to win 2 weekend tickets (including camping) for the festival and the TNS back catalogue. See the magazine or [www.bigcheesemagazine.com](http://www.bigcheesemagazine.com) to enter and win an absolutely mint prize.

'The Gentleman Bandits' by **STAND OUT RIOT** also got 5/5 last issue. Check it out!

We are gutted to announce that the mighty **DANGERFIELDS** have called it a day.

We had planned to release their second album later this year, but unfortunately the band all living in different countries and constant lineup changes have finally made it all too difficult.

They will be massively missed, especially in Manchester.

ROCKtober just won't be the same without them.

On 11th May **SOUNDS OF SWAMI** release 'Jack', which is the first single from the upcoming debut album 'Flee The Flock', to coincide with a 16 date UK tour.

It is available as a limited edition handmade digipack CD on tour!

It includes five tracks including a cover of 'Merchandise' originally by Fugazi, 'Jack' and tracks from previous releases.

Our good friend, Scott Thompson is currently building a portfolio of music videos to start his own company and is looking for bands/solo acts to make a video with (for free). Any help would be greatly appreciated and you'll get a sweet video out of it!

[scottthompson114@googlemail.com](mailto:scottthompson114@googlemail.com)



Ed from **A WAR AGAINST SOUND** has a new band called **EGOS AT THE DOOR** who were superb at the TNS all-dayer.

They play top-notch technical hardcore and have a huge sound for such a new band.

Check out their tracks at [www.egosatthedoor.bandcamp.com](http://www.egosatthedoor.bandcamp.com) and go and see them live.

We are delighted to announce that the amazing **RISING STRIKE** have been added to the TNS roster. We've been huge fans of this Stoke/Manchester based band for a long while and are set to release their debut full length album later this year.

Combining politically intelligent lyrics and Leftover Crack-esque punk rock, Rising Strike have become one of the best live bands in the North-West and we are very much looking forward to this release.

**BEAT THE RED LIGHT** have just completed a UK tour with their mates **THE JUNK**, to promote new TNS release, 'Salt the Lands', which is really not to be missed. The debut full length takes their sound to new extremes incorporating grind, metal and hardcore with ska in a way that only BTRL can.

Check it out! They were joined on some dates by awesome 2 tone ska/punk band **FAINTEST IDEA** who continue to work towards a follow up to the brilliant 'Ignorance is This' album.

**THE KIRKZ** have sent Col away to California for most of May on a fact finding mission to check out that multi-million selling so-cal sound. The rest of the band will be conducting cultural horizon expanding by rifling through the jukeboxes of Macclesfield pubs. However when the four immovable objects reunite into the irresistible force it's summer and all systems go.

After warming up in Macc May 20th, they're off to play the always amazing Nice N Sleazy Festival end of May bank holiday.

Don't forget you can engage The Kirkz in convo loads of more ways these days than the intimidating classic method of confronting them. Catch them on Twitter, Facebook, Reverbnation and Hotmail. You never know when another gem will pop up like Ian's Panic Earth vid.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hy2n2Kz0kzI>

Don't forget that we still have loads and loads of **SUPER DEALS** available from [www.tnsrecords.co.uk](http://www.tnsrecords.co.uk).

You can pick up a few releases at a time using the deals and get our releases even cheaper.

I can't remind people enough how important every single sale is to a non-profit label such as TNS so every single penny spent is massively appreciated and enables us to release more quality music. Thanks as always for your support!

## **THE INTERNATIONAL SPLIT EP**

In April TNS will release an international split EP featuring The Mighty Midgets from Denmark, Fist of the North Star from the USA, Broken Aris from Sweden and my own band, Manchester's Revenge of the Psychotronic Man.

The CD is a collaborative release with Stikman Records releasing it in the USA and 5FeetUnder in Denmark.

We've wanted to do a collaborative release for a while and came across two labels who share our non-profit ethos and ideas and some awesome bands (who run the labels) so decided to put this together.

It's been an absolute pleasure working with the bands and labels involved and I'm certain people will love this CD.

Split EPs are always a good way to get bands out to a new audience and I feel this particular release will do just that but also works incredibly well as an album in it's own right.

Each band plays their own brand of really fast punk, but with a different take on it.

Revenge have a Zeke feel to our sound, Mighty Midgets offer technical melodic hardcore, Fist of... bring some metal riffery to the CD whereas Broken Aris bring a bit of a Fat Wreck feel.

I have put together some short interviews with the bands so you can find out more. I obviously haven't interviewed myself so check out [www.](http://www.)

[revengeofthepsychotronicman.com](http://revengeofthepsychotronicman.com) for more info about Revenge of...

## **MIGHTY MIDGETS**

### **Where are you based?**

We are based in Aalborg, Denmark. We were all raised in Aalborg, but nowadays Lasse lives in Frejlev, close to Aalborg.

### **How would you describe your music?**

We tend to say it is a hybrid of Strike Anywhere, Raised Fist, Have Heart, Red Chord, A Wilhelm Scream, Propagandhi and Cancer Bats, but this guy says it better: "This is genuinely fucking brilliant! If you like your punk rock played at lightning speed, with hardcore energy but with melodies that stick in your head for days, these guys seriously deliver... Fans of Strike Anywhere and Propagandhi will love it, but it will appeal to fans of fast punk as well as a melodic hardcore crowd."

### **What is your local scene like?**

When you say scene, I guess you are referring to a punk scene, but there is no city in Denmark that have got a punk scene, but here in Aalborg, we have in contrast to other cities actually achieved to have some sort of unity between the different alternative genres and therefore actually having some sort of scene. Compared to the size of our city, I think that is an achievement in itself.

### **What have been your biggest achievements to date?**

Being able to play [some] shows and having families on the side has to be our biggest achievement, but there are tons of memories to tell our grandchildren. Among others playing shows with US Bombs (and getting Duane Peters to sing backing vocals for our split CD), the Unseen, Real McKenzies etc., getting to release our records, getting to spray Pfefferspray in the face of Germans, getting to tour Europe, getting to meet great people from all around, getting reviewed, getting to sleep on strangers' floors, getting to cross the Danish border while being chased by a police car and getting to answer questions like these.

### **What can people expect from the tracks on the split EP?**

A bit heavier songs than on our full length "Raising Ruins for the Future" and the songs are slightly longer. If you have not heard our band before I would say our band plays fast and brutal punk, yet melodic with influences from skatepunk to hardcore to grindcore to metal to everything with heart, passion and the ability to kick your balls!

### **What do you have planned gig wise over the next few months?**

Not really a lot of gigs planned over the next few months. We got two cool shows as supporting act for American hardcore legends Tragedy and a show with After the Fall, which is probably the band in the world that sound the most like us.

We hope we can play more shows, if we are able to get them booked and there will probably be a release party for the split EP as well.

## **BROKEN ARIS**

### **Where are you based?**

Our Headquarters is in Sundsvall, Sweden. Though Magnus lives 100km away in a little place called Ånge and Jens lives in Kyoto, Japan, studying Japanese for the next 1½ years. The simple answer is we are based in Sundsvall!

### **How would you describe your music?**

We think we play really fast skate-punk. But other people seem to think we have a lot of metal in it as well, which I guess is true. Magnus has really high pitched vocals, which might have something to do with us not sounding like a regular skate-punk band.

For people who haven't heard us I guess you could say we sound like your ordinary Swedish skatepunk band, but combined with really angry hardcore and... power metal.

### **What is your local scene like?**

Confused! Sundsvall is an old punk town who used to be called "Punksvall". But right now Rock n Roll and Death Metal seems to be really hip. We are trying to convert them back to punk!

### **What have been your biggest achievements to date?**

Making this split is our biggest achievement to



date.  
But also getting to play at Frasses Fixarfest with Rebuke, From The Tracks, Steve And the Alcoholics and loads of other great bands was something of a milestone for us.

We also had a gig with Swedish punk Legends "Dik"(de Lyckliga Kompisarna) once. That was awesome! Mart (singer) even bought a demo afterwards! He insisted on paying and wouldn't let us give it to him for free. What a great guy!

### What can people expect from the tracks on the split EP?

For those who have heard us before... I would say that it's a bit more hardcore punk

than usual, and the metal influences are somewhat toned down for these particular songs. Also the vocals aren't as high pitched as on our previous achievement "Fast, Aris and Forever". Also the songs are overall faster throughout the whole songs on this release, as well as having a really high bpm count. We have probably never been this much pure skatepunk before is what I'm saying!

### What do you have planned gig wise over the next few months?

We are playing a gig in our hometown with Stars Burn Stripes and Kill the Rooster from Denmark in April.  
That feels awesome!  
After that we'll start

planning a short September tour and try to fix some cool summer gigs.

## FIST OF THE NORTH STAR

Where are you based?  
Nashville, TN, US

### How would you describe your music?

Thrash Punk? Speed Punk? Metal infused Thrash Speed Punk.

### What is your local scene like?

Shit.

### What have been your biggest achievements to date?

Besides keeping the band going since 2006, touring the US or being on Fuse TV.

### What can people expect from the tracks on the split EP?

For people who knew us before this release, a slight change in sound and vocal style. For people who are just hearing of us, crazy fast guitar riffs and lots of changes.

### What do you have planned gig wise over the next few months?

We have Stik Fest on April 23rd and a few random shows around the southeast US.

### Grab a copy of this CD now from www.tnsrecords.co.uk

It's just £6 for 21 tracks of fast!

Top: Mighty Midgets, middle: Broken Aris Bottom: FoTNS

**AN INTERNATIONAL SPLIT EP**  
4 BANDS, 3 LABELS, 21 TRACKS OF FAST PUNK  
www.tnsrecords.co.uk

**MIGHTY MIDGETS**  
AALBORG, DENMARK  
Fast, technical hardcore punk for fans of Black Sabbath, Propaganda and Blazing Out.  
"The best thing I have heard from Denmark in a long time", *Revolver Magazine* "Decomposing fucking brilliant!"  
That's Not Skanking "Hammering hard-titting riffs - full of aggression" *Rockbreak*

**REVENGE OF THE PSYCHOTRONIC MAN**  
MANCHESTER, UK  
Bludgey fast punk for fans of Skin, Dead Kennedys and Kill Dynasty.  
"Punking Great!" *Revolver* "An infectiousness you can't ignore" *Rock 77*  
"Assholes" *VOXBATH* "Beyond fast" *Light On*

**FIST OF THE NORTH STAR**  
NASHVILLE, TN, USA  
Metal fueled thrash punk and sweeter riffs. Imagine The Deadmecs covering The Black Sabbath.  
"Fist Of The North Star are an impressive display of youthful vigor and malicious swirl designs." *Revolver Magazine*  
"Angry, aggressive, and sincere" *Adip Magazine*

**BROKEN ARIS**  
SUNDSVALL, SWEDEN  
Technical fast Welsh-esque skate punk for fans of WuFX, Lagwagon and Blazing Out

**OUT MAY 2011**

TNS RECORDS CODE 7



## **FEATURED PROMOTER/ FANZINE**

I've decided to give a theme to each issues featured promoter and fanzine. Last issue I concentrated on the hotbed of punk action, which is Amzingstoke. This time I wanted to go with a football theme and spread the word about the brilliant things going on at FC United of Manchester.

I'm a regular there and there is so much more to the club than just football. Not only is the team fan owned and not-for-profit, but also they are massively involved with community work and offer so many events both football or non-football related to the Manchester area. FC try to approach everything they do in a positive way and for the right reasons and as such every member feels a real part of something exciting, productive and fun.

Due to this, going to watch FC is so much more than going to your average football match. They offer pre-match entertainment in the Course You Can Malcolm Bar, which makes going to the game so much more of an event. They also have what is possibly the best fanzine I have ever read, which is distributed as an A5 zine, but they also offer the occasional shorter A4 editions in between the releases of the full zine.

### **FEATURED PROMOTER:**

#### ***Course You Can Malcolm***

Discovering that FC have pre-match entertainment for members has been a real treat for me. It has however meant that Saturday drinking starts so much earlier, which has its pro's and cons. The atmosphere in the bar is superb and you know that the money you spend is going straight to the club, which is a great way to justify drinking lots of cheap booze. There is good food, guest

beers and everyone is incredibly welcoming.

Manager, Karl Marginson makes an appearance to tell two crap jokes (well I was told they were always crap, but I actually think he's quite funny) and he even branched out into card tricks last week. To quote one fan, "David Copperfield must be shitting himself."

My favourite part is the reading of the team sheet, where each week the players are asked to comment on a theme. Themes have ranged from crap Xmas presents, through to favourite soppy films and it's genuinely hilarious, although I have a sneaking suspicion that the players may not actually come up with all the answers.

And on top of this we are treated to a live band each match. There is a real eclectic mix of bands on show including TNS's own Revenge of the Psychotronic Man (yes, they even let me play). Despite FC being dubbed a punk football team, due to their ethos, there is obviously much more than punk rock on show, with the likes of Liam Frost and Gideon Conn also on the growing list of CYCM acts. I believe one week there was even a harpist.

I love going in Malcolm's before the game. It makes the experience of going to the match so much more fun and I'd recommend it to anyone. There is even talk of a TNS month there next season, which would be awesome.

### **FEATURED FANZINE: *A Fine Lung***

I've always been interested in football fanzines. In fact I became interested in football fanzines before I ever set eyes on a music related zine. A Fine Lung is an FC United fanzine, but as with everything related to FC, there is so much more to it than just football. It is possibly the best fanzine I have ever read and I

strongly recommend it to anyone, even if you are not interested in football or don't have any affiliation with FC.

As you would expect from a fanzine, which is inspired by a club which is run on co-operative principles, the features are from a left wing viewpoint. Everything written is so well informed and written with a sense of humour despite the mostly serious content. In short, A Fine Lung just get it. Their website [www.afinelung.com](http://www.afinelung.com) is also superb and features some stuff from the printed zine, plus loads more. Content varies from some football anecdotes and discussion of ideas behind FC to lots and lots of political content covering themes such as the TUC march through to ideas about the census.

It comes very highly recommended. Check it out!

FC United has so many strings to it's bow. Everyone is encouraged to get involved to make the experience better for all and I would urge anyone who is disheartened by the commercialisation of mainstream football to come down to a game next season and see what's on offer.

**Andy**





(Left) Charlie Harper - UK Subs (Middle) Geno Washington (Right) Pauline Black - The Selecter



## AN INTRODUCTION TO STRUMMERCAMP 2011

May bank holiday weekend (27-29th) sees the sixth Strummercamp Festival take place at Manchester Rugby Club on Grove Lane in Cheadle Hulme. This completely independant, not for profit event prides itself on being the 'friendliest festival on the circuit' (efestivals review). Strummercamp has also been nominated several times into the top ten categories as best grass roots festival and best small festival at the UK Festival awards. This is an event which is as DIY as it gets, with ticket buyers and bands enjoying the unique atmosphere created every year. It was set up initially as an idea to pay tribute to the late great Joe Strummer and the Clash, reflecting Joe's positive spirit and influence. The organisers mix the acts from many musical

backgrounds, from classic punk to ska, reggae to rockabilly, folk to rhythm and blues, with the odd soul legend thrown in! We aim to offer real value for money prices on drinks and food with real ale and excellent catering. This event has remained determined not to be a rip off, appreciating peoples budget whilst adding to the enjoyment of being there. Regular 'Strummercampers' have travelled from afar each year, always expressing what this weekend means to them and have made lifelong friends, making their way to Cheadle Hulme from Germany, America, Iceland, Austria, Lithuania, Scotland, France and Spain.

This years line up includes soul, r'n'b legend Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band, (yes, that Geno who Dexty's paid tribute to) who promise a lively energetic performance to get everyone

dancing on a Saturday night. We also have on board the one and only Captain Sensible with his band. Taking a break till later this year from guitar duties with The Damned, the Captain will be bringing his unique mayhem and fun, no doubt enjoying himself as he did two years ago when The Damned provided a fantastic end to our weekend. Pauline Black brings her Two-Tone Ska giants The Selecter to have the place bouncing on Sunday night. Prepare for some wild Irish folk rock from The Popes (formerly Shane Macgowan's band). There will also be a special appearance from Manchester's Chameleons Vox with Mark Burgess and band playing timeless classic Chameleons tunes. There will be hard rockin' punk from German band Radio Dead Ones, authentic good time rockabilly from The Black Cat Trio, Sonic Boom Six with their unique

punk-ska-ragga-hip hop, Country and Eastern from the brilliant Bootscraper and one of the most exciting hip hop crews around - Surreal Knowledge from the North-West who take influence from various elements of rock, jazz, funk, electro and soul and will be something to watch out for. Foreign Legion, who we are told are Wales's longest serving punk band are looking forward to joining us and there will be loads of other acts such as Supajamma, China Shop Bull, Rasta Four Eyes, Jackie O, Roughneck Riot and Cheapskates. Manchester's independant label TNS once again present their own stage with the likes of Chief, Stand Out Riot, Down and Outs, Revenge of the Psychotronic Man, Black Star Dub Collective, X Ray Cat Trio, Acid Drop and many more. This year we are also introducing the Hempden Jig Acoustic stage.



Our legendary 5 a side competition will again take place (bring your shorts and shin pads!) and there will be some amazing after shows indoors with bands, guest dj's and a late bar.

As a very special treat for all weekend ticketholders, our Friday night party in the club house will welcome the UK SUBS back, with support from Clash tribute Rebel Truce! Please check out our website for all details and to purchase tickets at [www.strummercamp.co.uk](http://www.strummercamp.co.uk)

As this is an independant event we really appreciate any help to promote and spread the Strummercamp word, if anyone reading this can forward the details to any press, radio, facebook, twitter etc, then you really will be contributing to the future of 'THE ONLY FESTIVAL THAT MATTERS'

LOS AMIGOS  
AND ALL THE  
STRUMMERCAMP  
COMPADRES.

**Phil Fitzpatrick**

## THE TNSrecords STAGE

Everyone at TNS is incredibly proud to be invited to run the second stage at Strummercamp for the second year. Last year was

unbelievable, with such a fantastic lineup and such a superb atmosphere all weekend so we jumped at the chance to do it all again.

Headlining this year, we have Manchester ska-core genre terrorists; Sonic Boom Six, who will wrap up the Saturday night. Sunday will see Household Name Records band Chief bringing the TNS stage to a raucous end with their brand of awesome melodic hardcore punk.

Saturday will also feature sets from the likes of Liverpool punk heroes The Down and Outs, TNS thrash punks Revenge of the Psychotronic Man, Pumpkin Records punk band The Dead Subverts and the exciting and hotly tipped new dub/ska/reggae band The Black Star Dub Collective amongst many more.

Sunday will see support coming from the mighty Stand Out Riot playing their distinct brand of gypsy, folk and metal tinged ska-core, technical hardcore band Sounds of Swami, rockabilly from The X Ray Cat Trio and the Dead Kennedys inspired surf punk of The Dead Class.

For the full stage lineup see the back cover.

TNS bands Bootscraper (main stage), Leagues Apart (TNS stage) and

Faintest Idea (Club house aftershow stage) will also be joining what is set to be the party of the year.

Last year we had wheelbarrow races, punk rock ballroom dancing and 15 person human pyramids. I'm sure we can better that this year can't we?

**Andy**

## The Hempen Jig Acoustic Stage

Hempen Jig started out as a one off night at Santiago bar in Leeds in July 2009 which featured Leeds own Bootscraper and the then solo X-Ray Cat. In September of the same year it became a monthly night hosted by Bootscraper as part of their residency at the Dry Dock in Leeds, predominantly showcasing roots, blues and traditional music.

Since then The Hempen Jig name has branched out into weekly nights in the Dry Dock and Milo as well as putting on one off shows for national and international acts including "The Crooked Fiddle Band", "P-A-U-L", "Rapskallion" and "Drunken Balordi" to name but a few.

With the growth of activity for Hempen jig so too has it's musical horizons broadened, whilst still putting on many events featuring roots music the events are no longer

exclusively featuring this kind of music.

In summer 2010 Hempen Jig put on the first "Hempen Jig All-Dayer" at the Dry Dock, a free-entry all day music festival featuring some of the country's best up-and-coming acts. Such was the success of the first one this event is now due to become an annual event.

Hempen Jig Promotions are all set to run the acoustic stage at Strummercamp 2011 featuring national acts such as "Billy Liar", "Darren Poyzer", "Troy Faid", "Louise Distras" and around a dozen other acts over two days.

Hempen jig promotions tries to put on gigs which benefit both the fans and the musicians involved to ensure that both parties are kept happy and continue to play/attend as many gigs as possible.

For gig listings and upcoming events or to play one of our events search "Hempen Jig Promotions" on Facebook.

**Tim Loud**

One of the bands I am most excited about seeing at Strummercamp is The Selector. I'm a big fan of their distinctive brand of 2-Tone ska and it's going to be a superb end to a great weekend.

**TNS) I'm really looking forward to your set at Strummercamp. Is there anything special planned for the festival?**

Pauline) The Selector plan for 2011 is to re-introduce the band's music to its fans, both old and new. It is fantastic to be singing and performing with original fellow lead singer Gaps Hendrickson again. At Strummercamp we will take the opportunity to also premiere our current single 'Big in the Body - Small in the Mind' live, which will be released for download the following day on May 30th.

**TNS) Who is in the current lineup of The Selector?**

Pauline)  
Lead Vox: Pauline Black  
Lead Vox: Arthur "Gaps" Hendrickson  
Drums: Winston Marche  
Guitar: Anthony Harty  
Keyboards: Greg Coulson  
Bass: John Thompson  
Horns: Neil Pyzer & Orlando LaRose

**TNS) The festival is to celebrate the life and ideas of Joe Strummer and The Clash. What are your personal memories of The Clash and Joe?**

Pauline) The main thing I remember about The Clash and Joe Strummer in particular

was their impassioned stage performance, their ability to experiment with different styles of music - especially mixing reggae with punk and not being afraid to confront political subjects. Put all that together and they were as pundits said at the time "the only band that mattered".

**TNS) You originally formed in the late 70s. How has the music scene changed since then?**

Pauline) There are now many more women actively involved in making music and black musicians actually make money these days, instead of being ripped off, as they often were in the past.

**TNS) How do you feel online music and mp3 culture has changed things?**

Pauline) For the better. CDs and records were such clunky things. Young people these days have an immense access to all kinds of music, therefore the opportunity for musical cross- fertilisation and resultant interesting hybrids is legion. It's also broken the monopoly that record companies used to enjoy and often wilfully abuse.

**TNS) What new or lesser known bands would you recommend to people?**

Pauline) Honeyboy Carencro, Miss BabySol, Viv Albertine

**TNS) Ska is still really relevant and popular today. What was it about the whole 2-Tone sound and movement that gives it such staying power?**

Pauline) A fully engaged

commitment to the music we performed and wrote. 2-Tone celebrates the unity of human kind in all its diversity. That is a powerful concept in the world today.

**TNS) What else have you got planned in the new future? Any more new material?**

Pauline) The Selector will be releasing the following in 2011: A new single - "Big In The Body-Small In The Mind" released on May 30th. Check out a promo video for the single @ [www.theselector.net](http://www.theselector.net). A second single, a Selectedized cover of Amy Winehouse's "Back To Black" will be released on July 30th. And the new 10 track album "Made In Britain" will be released on Sept 1st. Pauline Black's memoir "Back To Black- A 2-tone memoir" is to be published by Serpent's Tail on Aug 4th. I have also recently been songwriting with Jah Wobble - it is a work in progress and a separate project from The Selector.

**TNS) Finally, what have been the highlights of being part of The Selector?**

Pauline) I was in a "multicultural band" before the word was ever invented. Britain's Tory leader, David Cameron may declare that "Multiculturalism is Dead", but the renewed interest in and continuation of us and other 2-tone bands proves him emphatically wrong. Multiculturalism is here to stay and I suggest that people get used to it.

**Questions by Andy, answers by Pauline Black**

# THE SELECTER

Our good mate Ed has some extremely cheap deals at **Die Skreemin Studios** in June. The daily rate is reduced to £60. 3 days for £150, 7 day week £320 - to enquire about availability or to ask for a quote don't hesitate to email [diaskreeminstudios@live.co.uk](mailto:diaskreeminstudios@live.co.uk). Recording, mixing & mastering available.

# CHIEF

**(TNS) How are things going for Chief? I hear the new album is out very soon? What can we expect from it?**

Nick) Hi, things are going well for Chief at the moment. We just got back from a short spell in Europe playing shows with Leagues Apart, 7 Years Bad Luck, Sweet Empire and Dear Hearts, which was great. We've also been lucky enough to get on tour with H2O and get some dates with Strung Out over the summer. We'll be playing a second gig with Capdown as well, that should be top. The new album 'Apply Within' is now finished at last and we have a release date of June 6th through Household Name Records in the UK.

The new record shows our variety of influences a bit more than the first album I think. It brings some new sounds to the Chief style but keeps enough of the old core stuff to still sound like a Chief record (hopefully!). It's still got all the usual Chief stuff - melodic harmonies, gang chants, shouty hardcore with socially/politically inspired lyrics etc... but tries to bring something fresh to the table as well.

**(TNS) Are you happy with it then? There seemed to be lots of delays?**

Nick) I think we are all diggin the new record yeah, and yes there were long delays, it was a really hard record to make to be honest. As it was being written, we didn't have a drummer for a while and other line-up changes occurred along the way as well with bass and guitar both changing. It was

It's great that Chief are back on the gigging circuit and we are very much looking forward to them headlining the Sunday of Strummercamp on the TNS stage. Their new album is out in June on the legendary and inspirational Household Name records and their brand of melodic hardcore could be about to bridge the gap that was left by the demise of bands like The Steal. Check them out!

all pretty unnerving and really tested how much passion and determination we had in order to press on with the project despite the massive obstacles. In fact, one of the tracks 'Medicine' is about how frustrating and dark it felt to not have been on the road for so long when making the record. It felt like a sort of identity crisis, not playing shows and just wishing you were in the van, knowing what you were doing, who you are and that the project is progressing positively. Now it's finished it's such a relief and we're excited to see what people make of it.

**(TNS) It's awesome that it's on Household Name. How did you come to work with them?**

Nick) I got in touch with Lil (HHN) originally to discuss re-releasing the first album and he expressed an interest in the band and in new material. Since then a few things have happened that have stalled the progress of this, notably the line up changes, but Lil has helped Chief out a lot and been really patient. It is as you say awesome and we are really looking forward to seeing how well it can work.

**(TNS) You played with Household Name legends Capdown last week. How was that?**

Nick) It is one of those things that I would have dreamt about when I was younger. With Capdown and other Household Name Records bands of the time being such a huge influence on our musical tastes when we were starting Chief, it was a fantastic opportunity to get to play alongside those guys

in London. It was a great night.

**(TNS) Are you happy with the lineup? Does it feel settled now?**

Nick) The line-up is full of talented and cool people, which collectively have loads to offer this project. You can never tell what obstacles might get in the way over time (as we've learnt) but I think it's definitely the strongest team to date and hopefully it will last a long time.

**(TNS) You are playing Strummercamp. Are you fans of The Clash?**

Nick) I really like The Clash and out of most of the punk bands of that era they were definitely one of the bands that I did listen to as a youngster and that I took something from. It was because of The Clash that I listened to bands like Anti Flag for the first time and it was because of getting into bands that have such lyrical substance and something to say that I ultimately got into bands like Capdown and started the first band with Dan whilst we were at college, which later developed into Chief.

Dan) I like The Clash yeah, I'm a particular fan of Joe Strummer - he's an inspirational character, very intelligent.

**(TNS) Why do you think their influence is still so prominent today?**

Nick) I guess bands like The Clash as previously mentioned paved the way for a lot of what we coin as punk music today and I think of The Clash as being the roots from which more modern punk grew from.

**Questions by Andy**



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# CYNICS



London trio CYNICS play straight up, soulful punk rock songs. Their debut album 'Don't Need Much' is about all the important stuff – drinking cider, getting high in the sun and going skateboarding. Produced by Peter Miles.



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# Down and Outs

Playing a brand of catchy sing-a-long punk with a gruff edge, The Down and Outs will go down a treat at this years Strummercamp and we are very pleased that one of our favourite UK bands is gracing our stage. I had a brief chat with vocalist/guitarist Mark about their plans.

**(TNS) How are things with The Down and Outs? What have you been up to of late?**

Mark) Not much - we started recording our third album, but lots of it got lost after my hard drive hit the deck. Horrible! It knocked us for six for a bit, so we stopped, formed a new band with us all playing different instruments (Chris and the Zipcodes), had some fun and recharged the batteries. We're now ready to pick up work on the album and get it finished. I think the songs are great, if not, I think we would have knocked it all on the head.

**(TNS) When can we expect the new album?**

Mark) I think it should be out at some point in the summer. It's getting worked on as we speak!

**(TNS) What else have you got planned for the summer?**

Mark) We have a few gigs here and there, but our main priority is finishing this bleedin' album!

**(TNS) You are playing at Strummercamp Festival. Are you fans of The Clash?**

Mark) Yeah, we're all fans of The Clash, to varying levels. Personally, I'm more into the early stuff, but our bass player Chris is into them big time, even the later stuff with just Joe Strummer in!

**(TNS) Why do you think their musical influence is still so prominent today?**

Mark) I think certain bits of music are timeless, be it Mozart, The Beatles or The Clash. Great music will stand the test of time.

**(TNS) What's your best festival experience?**

Mark) Sebastian Bach from Skid Row falling over at Donington '92.

## INTRODUCING: PETTYBONE

**From:** London

**Sounds like:** The Sound Of Revolt - an amalgamation of diverse music influences from DC punk/hardcore, Portland crust, 90's alternative rock/noise bands to original blues artists.

**Brief history:** Pettybone started out in the beginning of 2010 at a squat in North London and quickly became prominent in London's alternative scene, creating a buzz around them that won them the attention of various fanzines and alternative radio. Maximum Rock'n'Roll recently included them in the New Band Spotlight and Daniel P. Carter has given Pettybone airplay on his BBC Radio1 Rock show and Mike Davies on Radio 1 Punk show. MTV Japan has recently filmed an interview / show to be aired in 2011. They have also just been confirmed for a one off UK only show as main support with Converge.

Their powerful debut album was recorded by Sam Thredder at Cro's Nest and mixed by Kurt Ballou at Godcity studios. Pettybone continue to tour with their explosive live shows and spread the sound of the revolt live, while searching for the ideal outlet for their debut album.

**Releases to date:** Demo 2010, Album for release June 2011

**Upcoming plans:** Album release, Converge show, TOURING TOURING TOURING!

**Website/contact:** <http://www.reverbnation.com/thesoundoftherevolt>



## REVIEWS

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### THE CARRY ONS - SUCCESSION (Stikman)

Nashville's Stikman Records continue to impress with another strong release. I was very impressed with the previous effort from The Carry Ons and this continues where that left off with some driving melodic punk and big choruses, which draw comparison to bands such as Born to Lose, older Social Distortion material and maybe even a bit of Against Me.

You could totally see how this band could transfer to a bigger audience with songs like the riff driven 'Wake Me Up' and the acoustic lead 'All Along the Cell Tower' both showcasing the bands ability to write a memorable chorus.

Good stuff.

Andy

### CHAS PALMER-WILLIAMS - WE SHOWED THEM DIDN'T WE (Ashes Records)

Chas Palmer-Williams, lead singer from noughties ska-punk legends Lightyear, is back with an exceptional 5 song EP, released in November 2010. While Chas is no stranger to Rebellion, playing old classics to

swarms of fans alongside his latest material, I admit this release on Ashes Records went under my radar until recently. The record is largely acoustic, with cheeky synth and piano parts (which don't get in the way), and shout-along choruses sung by friends and family. His lyrics are full of the sharp witty observation, tinged with schoolboy humour that we know and love from its previous incarnations. Chas reveals his geeky side singing about old-school video games in 'Haggar for Mayor' and even Warhammer in 'I Feel Like a Million Zimbabwean Dollars'. 'The Good Charlatans' critiques the commodification of punk rock as Iggy Pop and Johnny Rotten grace our TV screens to flaunt insurance and butter respectively, while Chas reminisces and champions the DIY ethic at the heart of the scene. And 'Now you've got the Midlands Maddest Man' is a touching social commentary on the effects of the recession on Chas's old stomping grounds in Derby. Above all, Chas is sincere and offers an earnest collection of songs on issues which matter most to him, delivered with brutal punk honesty. The latest news is that Chas is writing new material as well as gathering members for his new band. I can't wait.

'We Showed Them, Didn't We' is available to download on Chas's Bandcamp page for £3 (all proceeds go the national dyslexia association) and you can follow him on Twitter @Chaswad for all his latest news.

Leo Harvey

### COT1B - EP

I have a soft spot for this sound; I don't know...

the 13 year old in me still manifests itself sometimes. The vocalist should go for it more often, they sound like a great band holding back. The harmonies are in pitch as are the vocals but there is something missing from this sound to make it complete as a lot of potential shines through this little EP. Hopefully we get something more passionately executed in the future.

Ed Hall

### END TO EMPIRES - UNTITLED

These tracks sound like they wrote themselves; I can imagine the live show very clearly. You can kinda guess what's coming next but it is good. What I like about this is the whole lo-fi production meets nice sounding guitars and bass, the drummer is clearly fairly accomplished and I wish he/she let it shine more. There's something about these guys... and I fucking love it. The artwork on the CD is cool too. It's a nice little package altogether, just check it out. If you're into Black-Flag style hardcore with fast parts it's definitely for you.

Ed Hall

### FIGHTING FICTION - WE WILL NOT FORGET

This is a 2 track single from these Xtra Mile Rec boys, that proves punk is very much alive and it has surpassed 3 chords, hawks and the word 'fuck'. The first track has some great hooks and rhythms that you don't often hear used this way. I'd recommend grabbing a copy if you ever have the opportunity. F.F.O MUSIC!

Ed Hall

### FOUR O - TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED (Do the Dog)

On first impressions these

guys aren't the typical Do the Dog sound, a lot more up tempo... Spunge meets Against Me! - I preferred the non ska parts in this band, the chord usage and tone sounds like a band I would keep in the old CD player for a while. The tracks have a lot of hidden surprises, unexpected parts - they don't like to stay on a particular section of a song too long which is something I relate to heavily. They also spice up sections, really liked these tracks. Really reminds me of illScarlett actually. Check them out, an interesting sound which I can only say listen to in order to judge.

Ed Hall

### JD AND THE FDCs - EP

3 tracks of sleaze punk mixed with classic rock from Jamie Delerict and co. Delerict was bassist in The Dangerfields for a spell and there is certainly a hint of that band's more rock n' roll side on show here. I know a few readers are fans of The Hip Priests too, so if you are one of them you should check this band out now as they will be right up your street. Opener 'Never Gonna Stop' is a well executed piece of punk n' roll as is 'Monsoon is Now'. Final track 'Tie Me Up (Tie Me Down)' was actually intended to be a Dangerfields track and was probably my personal favourite.

This one isn't for everyone, but if you like bands like The Dwarves and a big slab of classic rock, you'll love this.

Andy

### THE MEDICINE BOW - SONGS FROM THE FLOOR (Wood Shampoo)

Well it's been a long, long time in coming, but finally Manchester's favourite



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country punks/drunks have released their full length album and it's great.

But if you really want to appreciate this album fully I suggest drinking lots of booze to get you in the right mindset.

It's good whilst you are sober but it's brilliant whilst pissed. As that was clearly the state of the band when performing and writing this it's only right isn't it? In an intoxicated state you can really get into the mind of the evil genius of The Medicine Bow and it all makes sense. The wide range of instruments used makes it interesting throughout, the songwriting is top notch and the slurred swagger brings it all together in a drunken, sleazy basement bar kinda way. That's where this band is best experienced so I

suggest seeing The Bow live for your first fix and then picking up a copy of this.

**Andy**

### PETTYBONE - DEMO

Born out of the London squat scene, this 3 track demo is taken from Pettybone's forthcoming album and I for one can't wait to hear the full length because on this evidence it's gonna be great.

Opening track 'Pettybone' was my favourite with some brutal hardcore. Amy Bajekski's vocals are raw and powerful on this track, but she showcases her range on 'Le Regard', which has an almost 90s grunge feel, mixed in with the trademark hardcore and driving riffs. 'Breaking Away' also has a hint of the 90s mixed with some

almost Gallows-esque hardcore parts, and slower sludgier grooves.

This is a band who are well worth a listen if you like hardcore.

**Andy**

### POUR HABIT - GOT YOU BACK (Fat Wreck)

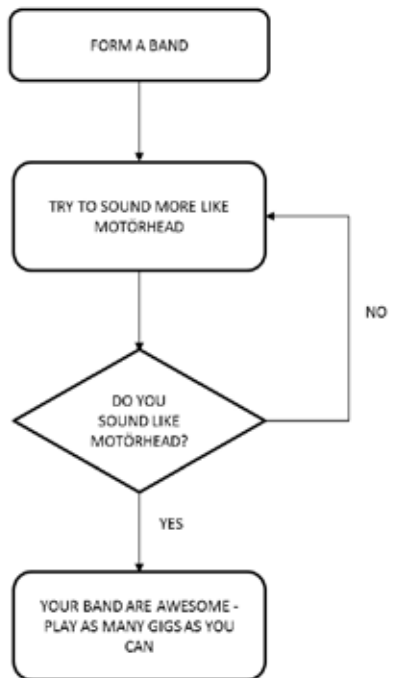
I've not been this excited by an album release (well an album that isn't a TNS release anyway haha) for a very long time. I absolutely love their last album 'Suicide' and really could not wait for this. Pour Habit's blend of stupidly fast punk mixed with technical hardcore and vocals that remind me of 'Ignition' era Offspring is absolutely brilliant.

My anticipation was built up even more when 'Heads of State' from the new album

was included on the latest Fat Wreck compilation and was played pretty much on repeat to and from work for the best part of a week. Combining metal breakdowns with their distinctive melody and pace, this track really is Pour Habit at their best.

However, I inevitably built the album up too much as initial listens didn't blow me away as much as I'd expected. Thankfully 'Got Your Back' is a real grower. Whilst it is not as instantly impacting as 'Suicide' it's still packed with awesome tunes, mindblowing guitars and drumming and those trademark hooks.

At times some of the pace is sacrificed and tracks such as 'Party' and the reggae fuelled 'Conscience Mind of a Revelation'



By Mozza

fig 1: How to be in an awesome band



are, despite being great summer anthems, clearly attempts at a more radio friendly sound.

That said, the storming pace of 'Matter of Opinion' and the speed and huge chorus of 'East 69th' are classic balls to the wall Pour Habit, which will certainly satisfy the speed freaks out there. Awesome! 'Head in the Clouds (Danny's Song)' shows a change of direction with a slower, darker intro, building to a fast paced main song and is another highlight.

'Got Your Back' is not as instantly impacting as 'Suicide' was, but no-one can accuse Pour Habit of making the same album twice and the more I listen, the more I think it's equally as good as their previous record.

I think this one is gonna be the soundtrack to my summer. Buy it! But buy 'Suicide' too as that is a classic and perhaps a better intro to what this band is all about.

**Andy**

## **RANDOM HAND**

### **- SEETHING IS BELIEVING**

From the off this CD is so tight, well executed, sounds BIG.... It is the best I've heard RH and I liked the old stuff. Good to know that guys can be at it so long and still improve. It's a good flowing album dynamically; I also prefer the sounds of the instruments in this record. The guitar sounds dirtier and the bass punchier, the delivery of the words is catchy but aggressive, the horn lines are well written too. A lot of styles are incorporated, but it isn't a mash up. It's well written and flows seamlessly. Wicked stuff.

**Ed Hall**

## **PATRIOTS, PIRATES AND PISSEHEADS**

This CD is old school, but with really good vocals and drums. Kind of what I'd imagine Dead Kennedys meets Bigwig/Belvedere to sound like. A touch cheesy on a lot of fronts but some fun songs especially 'Devilstick'. If you're into Dropkick Murphys, Streetdogs, Cocksparrer then you will probably be into it.

**Ed Hall**

## **LIVE**

**Random Hand, Chief, Rebuke, Stand Out Riot**  
- 12th Feb 2011, Moho Live.

The bar smells like Play Doh, the toilets like vinegar and the merch desks like wet cat. I've never felt able to appreciate Manchester's Moho live and tonight is no exception. The sound system seems rubbish to me compared to other Manchester venues and the drinks are pricey too. It's early for a Saturday night gig, presumably so the popular venue can mug a good few more punters at an Indie clubnight afterwards. Despite all this, a cracking line-up awaits...Stand Out Riot, creeping up to their new album release, start off the night. To be honest and fair they don't deserve an opening slot, so it's a good job that it's already busy with people who want a little dance. Bouncy, alive and completely in control of the crowd, the seven piece churn out their much-loved regular tunes amongst a promising selection of tracks from 'The Gentleman Bandits'. In the event of a stand-in guitarist many bands would struggle to keep as tight as SOR need to be to pull off some of their intricate details and crowd pleasing stop and starts.

But these guys pull it off top notch with the help of Dave March from Chief, bringing a slightly heavier sound and fitting in quite nicely for the time being. Next up are apparently Sweden's answer to the Tony Hawk soundtrack shaped gap in the market... Rebuke head straight into a fast and furious yet melodic set. It doesn't click quite right with me, but the moshy crowd loves it. Chief, however, steal the show. They play a similar blend of fast and furious, but it's served up with a much more energetic and entertaining front. Random Hand could not have expected such a great warm up. Now this is where my other problem lies with Moho Live. A massive staircase and half a dozen big metal pillars are in the way of the stage. If you aren't being involved/ crushed by the dancing at the front, or over 5ft 10 then unfortunately you really can't see much at all. Thankfully I don't need to see the facial expressions of this band to know that they are really enjoying this one. Hailing from Keighley, West Yorkshire, the band aren't too far from home.

Anger Management, perhaps one of their most recognisable tracks, gets the whole room chanting. There aren't many people standing still for the last song. I'd love an encore, I really would, but I'm also looking forward to some fresh, clean air outside. The back streets of Manchester never smelt so good.

**Samantha Cryer**



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